

Message Text

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: DGB PRESIDENT OUTLINES DGB POLICY GOALS FOR
NEXT FOUR YEARS

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REF: (A) BONN 8905; (B) BONN A-97

SUMMARY: IN A BASIC POLICY ADDRESS BEFORE THE DGB
CONVENTION IN HAMBURG ON MAY 24, HEINZ OSKAR VETTER,
WHO WAS REELECTED DGB PRESIDENT FOR A FOUR-YEAR TERM
(WHICH REPLACED THE PREVIOUS THREE-YEAR TERM BETWEEN
DGB CONVENTIONS), OUTLINED DGB POLICY AND ANALYZED

THE PROBLEMS FACING THE GERMAN LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE COMING YEARS. IT REFLECTS UNION GOALS AND PROBLEMS AND THE APPROACH TO THEIR SOLUTION MUCH BETTER THAN THE RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE CONVENTION (SEPTEL). THE BASIC IDEAS OF HIS SPEECH ARE GIVEN HEREAFTER, SUMMARIZED AND CONDENSED:

1. THE FRG FINDS ITSELF IN ITS LONGEST POST-WAR ECONOMIC CRISIS. ALTHOUGH IT CANNOT BE COMPARED WITH THE DISASTROUS CRISIS IN THE THIRTIES, THE FACT REMAINS THAT FOR OVER FOUR YEARS, THE FRG HAS MORE THAN ONE MILLION UNEMPLOYED, THAT THERE ARE SEVEN MILLION UNEMPLOYED IN THE EEC, SEVENTEEN MILLION IN THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES AND A GIANT ARMY OF MORE THAN 200 MILLION THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. THIS IS A MAJOR CHALLENGE. UNLESS IT IS POSSIBLE TO OVERCOME THIS NEW ECONOMIC CRISIS AND TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH, WARS, CHAOS AND THE DESTRUCTION OF ALL HUMAN VALUES THREATEN.

2. UNDER THESE CONDITIONS, THE GERMAN LABOR MOVEMENT NEEDS A RATIONAL ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CLEAR PERSPECTIVE FOR SOCIAL AND TRADE UNION POLICY. NEW PROBLEMS HAVE COME UP, AND NEW ANSWERS MUST BE FOUND IN THE OLD SPIRIT OF THE LABOR MOVEMENT.

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3. THE UNIONS HAVE ALWAYS UNDERSTOOD THE RIGHT TO WORK AS A BASIC HUMAN RIGHT AND AS AN INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENT, AS ESTABLISHED IN THE UN PACT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, IN THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL CHARTER OF 1963 AND IN ILO CONVENTION NO. 122. IT MEANS FOR US NOT ONLY THE RIGHT TO A JOB, BUT THE RIGHT TO WORTHY AND CREATIVE WORK. ORGANIZED LABOR HAS NEVER BEEN INVOLVED IN MACHINE STORMING, BUT IT HAS BEEN CAMPAIGNING FOR MORE WORKER PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION OF THE RESULTS OF TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS.

3. TRADE UNION PHILOSOPHY IS NOT BASED ON OPPOSITION AGAINST EFFICIENCY AS HAS BEEN FREQUENTLY MAINTAINED, BUT IT ENDORSES THE EFFICIENCY OF THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALL HIS CAPACITIES. BUT THIS REQUIRES CERTAIN EDUCATIONAL PREREQUISITES WHICH ARE STILL DENIED TO A MAJOR PART OF THE PEOPLE. IT IS THE DUTY OF THE GOVERNMENT TO CREATE SUCH SOCIAL STANDARDS WHICH GUARANTEE THE RIGHT TO A DECENT JOB.

4. THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS HAVE NEVER CONFINED THEMSELVES TO PROTECTIVE FUNCTIONS FOR THE WORKERS. THEY

HAVE ALWAYS REALIZED THAT, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS, THE RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS CAN ONLY BE OBTAINED THROUGH SOCIAL CHANGES. THE GERMAN UNIONS WILL REMAIN A MOVEMENT COMMITTED TO ACHIEVING POLITICAL AND SOCIAL REFORMS, AND THIS IS A COMMITMENT WHICH THEY WILL ADVOCATE IN THE FUTURE.

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5. CONTINUING HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT AND THE DANGER OF

GROWING PERMANENT UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE FUTURE HAVE BE-
COME A MAJOR THREAT TO THE SOCIAL STATUS OF THE WOR-
KERS, TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE ECONOMY'S HUMAN
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ASPECTS, AND TO THE DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE
SOCIETY. HISTORICAL EXPERIENCE HAS SHOWN THAT ECONOMIC
CRISES CREATE ANTI-REFORM MOVEMENTS WHICH ENDANGER THE
BASIC SOCIAL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS OF THE WORKERS
AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS A WHOLE. THE GERMAN LABOR MOVEMENT
WILL, HOWEVER, VIGOROUSLY COMBAT ANY ANTI-REFORM EFFORTS.

6. UNEMPLOYMENT HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PLAGUE FOR DEMOCRACY.
ITS ELIMINATION, THEREFORE, MUST HAVE ABSOLUTE PRIORITY
IN GOVERNMENT POLICY. THE CRISIS IS OF AN INTERNATIONAL
NATURE, AND IT HAS SPECIAL SIGNIFICANCE FOR THE FRG
BECAUSE OF ITS MAJOR INVOLVEMENT IN INTERNATIONAL BUSI-
NESS. HOWEVER, THE KEY TO A SOLUTION LIES PRIMARILY IN
THE FRG.

7. THE DGB HAS SUBMITTED A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO
RESTORE FULL EMPLOYMENT AND HAS LAID DOWN PARTICULARS
IN A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE DGB EXECUTIVE BOARD
FOR APPROVAL BY THE CONVENTION. NEVERTHELESS, THE
UNIONS SHOULD REALIZE THAT THE EMPLOYERS ARE STILL RE-
SPONSIBLE FOR BUSINESS POLICY. THE UNIONS WILL NOT
ALLOW THE POLITICIANS TO ESCAPE THEIR RESPONSIBILITY,
AND THE UNIONS WILL NOT TOLERATE VIEWS THAT HOLD THE
VICTIMS OF UNEMPLOYMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT
ITSELF.

8. RECENT EXPERTS' STATEMENTS REFLECT ARROGANCE AND
CYNICISM. THEY WANT TO TELL US THAT WHOEVER
WANTS A COMPREHENSIVE NETWORK OF SOCIAL SECURITY MUST
NECESSARILY ACCEPT A SUBSTANTIAL PART OF UNEMPLOYMENT
AS A DESIRED RESULT. IF THE SYSTEM OF THE MARKET
ECONOMY DOES NOT PROVIDE MORE THAN THE COMPULSORY
ADJUSTMENT OF PEOPLE TO THE PROFIT INTERESTS OF EMPLO-
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YERS, IF MARKET POLICY ENDS IN SUBMISSION OF GOVERN-
MENT ECONOMIC POLICY AND UNION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
POLICY TO THE INTERESTS OF EMPLOYER RULE AND PROFITS,
THEN SUCH AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM BECOMES INTOLERABLE FOR
US.

9. MOREOVER, THE EMPLOYERS THEMSELVES NO LONGER BELIEVE IN THE SELF-HEALING FORCES OF THE ECONOMY. THEY ARE CRYING FOR SUBSIDIES AND GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION, TAX REDUCTIONS AND NEW INCENTIVE PROGRAMS WHENEVER PROFITS APPEAR TO BE IN DANGER. THE UNIONS HAVE TO FIGHT UNCOMPROMISINGLY AGAINST A POLICY WHICH SEEKS TO SHIFT THE BURDENS OF THE CRISIS ON TO THE WORKERS WHILE GUARANTEEING ADDITIONAL PROFITS TO EMPLOYERS FROM GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

10. THE UNIONS DO NOT ACCEPT VIEWS ABOUT A CONTROVERSY BETWEEN UNEMPLOYED AND JOB-HOLDERS. THE UNIONS ALSO REPRESENT THE INTERESTS OF THE UNEMPLOYED SINCE THE PRESSURE FROM A RESERVE ARMY OF UNEMPLOYED TIGHTENS MANAGEMENT CONTROL OVER THE WORKERS IN THE PLANTS, CREATES FEARS AND WEAKENS WORKER RESISTANCE TOWARD MANAGEMENT, THUS PAVING THE ROAD TOWARD RENUNCIATION OF SOCIAL ACHIEVEMENTS.

11. IT IS ABSOLUTELY UNTRUE WHEN EXPERTS AND EMPLOYERS TELL US THAT WAGE RESTRAINT AND A POLICY OF REDISTRIBUTION OF COMPANY GAINS IN FAVOR OF PROFITS FAVORS INVESTMENTS THUS CREATING NEW JOBS. THIS IS A FALSE CONCEPT SINCE WAGE RESTRAINT AND THE ELIMINATION OF JOBS THROUGH RATIONALIZATION LEAD TO A LOWER MASS PURCHASING POWER AND A DECLINE OF DOMESTIC DEMANDS, THUS CONTRIBUTING TO A SHARPENING OF THE CRISIS.

12. COLLECTIVE BARGAINING POLICY AS PURSUED BY THE UNIONS IS NECESSARY AND RIGHT. IT DOES NOT
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DISTURB ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS, BUT IS AN ATTEMPT TO BRING THEM UNDER CONTROL. IT IS NOT HOSTILE TO PROGRESS, BUT IS A CONTRIBUTION TOWARD SECURING JOBS. PRINTERS AND METALWORKERS HAVE PROVED THAT THE UNIONS CAN SUCCESSFULLY DEAL WITH THE EFFECTS OF RATIONALIZATION.

13. IN THE FIGHT FOR SOCIAL REFORMS, THE UNIONS HAVE BEEN MOVED INTO A DEFENSIVE POSITION, BUT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN DEFEATED. WITHOUT PROGRESS, A SOCIETY BECOMES

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INFLEXIBLE, ITS MATERIAL AND INTELLECTUAL POSSIBILITIES DEGENERATE, WHILE, ON THE OTHER HAND, INITIATING HYPOCRISY, LEADING TO THE PEACE OF A CEMETERY AND PROVOKING THE CALL FOR A STRONG MAN.

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14. IF A SOCIETY BECOMES UNABLE TO UNDERGO REFORMS, YOUTH PARTICULARLY BECOMES SUSCEPTIBLE TO TOTALITARIAN IDEOLOGIES. YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT AND AN INCOMPLETE EDUCATIONAL REFORM TEND TO PROVIDE A FERTILE GROUND FOR IGNORANCE AND INTOLERANCE. THE UNIONS CANNOT STAND BY IDLY IF GROUPS OF OLD AND NEW NAZIS

GROW UP, THEY CANNOT TOLERATE IT IF THE CRUELITIES AND CRIMES OF NAZISM ARE MINIMIZED, HISTORICALLY GLORIFIED OR EVEN DENIED IN OBSCURE PUBLICATIONS. WE MUST PREVENT YOUTH FROM BEING SPOILED BY THE NAZI PROPAGANDA COMING FROM IRRESPONSIBLE BUSINESSMEN.

15. THERE IS REASON FOR CONCERN THAT THE PROTECTION AGAINST TERRORISM MAY BE MISUSED BY THE CONSERVATIVES FOR THEIR OWN ENDS. IT REMAINS ABSOLUTELY CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT TERRORISM AND MURDER ARE DEADLY ENEMIES OF DEMOCRACY. AS LONG AS UNIONS HAVE BEEN IN EXISTENCE, THEY HAVE REJECTED AND ACTIVELY FOUGHT TERRORISM.

16. A REGULATION WHICH IS DESIGNED TO PREVENT ANTI-CONSTITUTIONAL ELEMENTS FROM ENTERING THE PUBLIC SERVICES IS SOMETIMES APPLIED IN A MANNER WHICH DISCOURAGES PROGRESSIVE YOUNG PEOPLE AND MAKES THEM FALL INTO PASSIVENESS.

17. THE DGB OPPOSES ANY VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OPPRESSION OF TRADE UNION FREEDOM. ALTHOUGH LATIN AMERICA TODAY IS IN THE CENTER OF DISCUSSION, THE TRADE UNIONS DO NOT IGNORE THE FACT THAT THERE ARE VIOLATIONS OF BASIC RIGHTS IN AFRICA, ASIA AND EVEN IN EUROPE. THE UNIONS WILL NOT STOP THEIR CAMPAIGN BEFORE MURDER AND TORTURE HAVE NOT COME TO AN END IN ARGENTINA AS WELL AS IN ALL OTHER COUNTRIES.

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18. HOWEVER, EFFORTS 'ARE BEING MADE ALSO IN OUR COUNTRY TO RESTRICT TRADE UNION ACTIVITIES BY MEANS OF ANTI-UNION LEGISLATION. WHOEVER WANTS THE THROTTLING OF THE GERMAN UNIONS, UNDERMINES A BASIC PILLAR OF DEMOCRACY. THE UNIONS HAVE OBSERVED FOR SOME TIME MANY EFFORTS TO CREATE SPECIAL RIGHTS OR PRIVILEGES FOR SPECIFIC GROUPS IN ORDER TO MAKE A UNIFORM REPRESENTATION OF WORKERS' INTERESTS MORE DIFFICULT. THERE ARE SOME EXAMPLES, SUCH AS THE SEPARATE REPRESENTATION OF MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES UNDER THE NEW CODETERMINATION LAW, AS WELL AS ATTEMPTS TO BUILD UP SPOKESMEN COMMITTEES OF MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES AS SHADOW OR ANTI-WORKS COUNCILS. ALL THESE EFFORTS HAVE THE SAME OBJECTIVE: TO STRENGTHEN PRO-MANAGEMENT RIVAL LABOR ORGANIZATIONS.

19. OTHER ANTI-UNION TENDENCIES HAVE BECOME EVIDENT IN COURT DECISIONS WHICH TRY TO RESTRICT THE RIGHT TO STRIKE AND TO LEGALIZE EMPLOYER-SPONSORED LOCKOUTS. IT SHOULD BE MADE CLEAR THAT THIS IS NOT A QUESTION TO BE DECIDED BY LAWYERS, BUT A BASIC ISSUE OF

DEMOCRACY. LOCKOUTS ABUSE ECONOMIC POWER, WHILE STRIKES ARE DEFENSE AGAINST ENFORCED WAGE SETTLEMENTS AND ARBITRARY MANAGEMENT POLICY. THE HISTORY OF LOCKOUTS HAS SHOWN THAT THE EMPLOYERS HAVE USED LOCKOUTS AS A MEANS TO HIT THE INDIVIDUAL WORKER AS WELL AS HIS ORGANIZATION. IT SHOULD BE MADE ABSOLUTELY CLEAR THAT NOTHING BRINGS THE UNIONS MORE CLOSELY TOGETHER THAN THE MUTUAL FIGHT AGAINST SUCH ARBITRARY MANAGEMENT MEASURES. THE SOLIDARITY BETWEEN THE UNIONS WHICH HAS BEEN INITIATED BY THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCKOUTS IS DURABLE AND INVINCIBLE.

20. THE GERMAN UNIONS WILL ENERGETICALLY OPPOSE ANY EFFORT BY THE EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATIONS AND THEIR POLITICAL ALLIES TO DOWNGRADE THE FRG CONSTITUTION TO THEIR UNCLASSIFIED

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OWN BUSINESS RULES AND TO PRESENT THEIR POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY AS A CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT. THE LATEST EXAMPLE IS THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMPLAINT AGAINST THE NEW CODETERMINATION LAW. THIS COMPLAINT IS BASED ON THE HOPE THAT THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT WILL NOT ONLY DECIDE WHETHER THE CODETERMINATION LAW IS IN LINE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, BUT IN ADDITION TO THIS WHETHER THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT WILL ESTABLISH LIMITS FOR FUTURE LEGISLATION. SUCH METHODS, WHICH HAVE BEEN OBSERVED SINCE 1972, DO NOT ONLY RESTRICT THE POLITICAL

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MARGIN FOR THE PARLIAMENT AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES,
BUT ALSO LIMIT THE ACTIVITIES OF ALL ORGANIZATIONS
WHICH ARE WORKING IN THE NON-PARLIAMENTARY SPHERE IN THE
FIELD OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT. THE FRG CONSTITUTION
DOES NOT ONLY PROTECT PRIVATE PROPERTY, IT ALSO EX-
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PLICITLY PERMITS THE NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE
PROPERTY. IT BINDS PRIVATE PROPERTY TO SOCIAL
COMMITMENTS, AND IT GUARANTEES FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAIN-
ING AND HUMAN DIGNITY.

21. THE CURRENT CRISIS WITH ITS ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND
POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS REQUIRES A COMPREHENSIVE
RESPONSE BY THE TRADE UNIONS. THE UNIONS ARE IN A
DEFENSIVE POSITION SINCE THEY ARE CONFRONTED WITH
MAJOR ATTACKS BY THE EMPLOYERS AND POLITICALLY CONSER-
VATIVE AND REACTIONARY FORCES AGAINST THE BASIC INTER-
ESTS OF THE WORKERS AND DECISIVE LEGAL AND CONSTITU-
TIONAL POSITIONS. THE UNIONS HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THAT
THEIR EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MAJOR SOCIAL REFORMS THROUGH
GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED LEGISLATION HAVE BEEN BLOCKED BY
THE ANTI-REFORM POLICY OF MAJOR PARTS OF THE CDU/CSU
AND THE FDP. EVEN THE SPD IS SHOWING SIGNS OF RESIG-
NATION. TRADE UNION POLICY IN THE FUTURE SHOULD
THEREFORE BE GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING PRINCIPLES:

EXTENSION OF THE MARGIN OF ACTION FOR THE
TRADE UNIONS;
DEVELOPMENT OF CONCRETE ACTION PROGRAMS;
STRENGTHENING OF THE UNIFIED TRADE UNION
MOVEMENT (EINHEITSGEWERKSCHAFT);
INTENSIFICATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.

22. THE UNIONS WILL HAVE TO RELY MUCH MORE ON THEIR
OWN STRENGTH. THEY MUST SECURE THEIR OWN FIELDS OF
ACTIVITIES AND EXTEND THESE AREAS. THIS APPLIES
PRIMARILY TO THE EXTENSION OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING
POLICY AND ITS INTEGRATION WITH AN APPROACH TO UNION
POLICY IN THE PLANTS AND ENTERPRISES. THIS REQUIRES
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A CLOSER COOPERATION WITH THE UNION SHOP STEWARDS IN
THE PLANTS AND BETTER COORDINATION BETWEEN WORKS COUN-
CILS AND TRADE UNIONS. RECENT COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS
ACHIEVED IN THE PRINTING AND METAL SECTORS HAVE BROUGHT
ABOUT MANY IMPORTANT AND NEW EXPERIENCES.

23. ECONOMIC GROWTH RATES WHICH PREVIOUSLY CREATED
SUFFICIENT DEMANDS FOR LABOR ARE NOT TO BE EXPECTED
IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. TRADE UNION POLICY, THERE-
FORE, HAS TO EXPLOIT ALL THE POSSIBILITIES FOR SHORTEN-
ING HOURS OF WORK, INCLUDING INTRODUCTION OF THE 35-
HOUR WEEK AND OTHER MAJOR REDUCTIONS IN WORKING TIME.
COLLECTIVE AGREEMENTS MUST BE AIMED AT PREVENTING
EMPLOYERS FROM COMPENSATING FOR SHORTER HOURS BY
INCREASED EFFICIENCY AND OUTPUT. THE UNIONS MUST TAKE
CARE THAT THE ECONOMIC CRISIS IS NOT ABUSED TO DESTROY
ALL UNION EFFORTS TOWARD A HUMANIZATION OF WORK.

24. RECENT STRIKES HAVE SHOWN THAT THE WORKERS CAN BE
MOBILIZED FOR SUCH DEMANDS. THE DECISIVE POINT FOR
FUTURE UNION COLLECTIVE BARGAINING POLICY IS TO DEVELOP
A UNION APPROACH TO COUNTER THE NEW EMPLOYER STRATEGY
OF INDUSTRY-WIDE LOCKOUTS AND CENTRALIZED WAGE POLICY.
THIS REQUIRES A SOLIDARITY ACTION OF ALL DGB AFFILIATES
AND MEANS A NEW TASK FOR THE DGB LEADERSHIP.

25. IN MAJOR SPHERES OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENTS, THE
UNIONS, NEVERTHELESS, HAVE TO RELY ON THE DECISIONS OF
THE PARLIAMENT. THIS REQUIRES THE DEVELOPMENT OF A
DGB ACTION PROGRAM WHICH SHOULD INCLUDE DEMANDS TO BE
REALIZED THROUGH UNION ACTIVITIES AND THOSE TO BE
ADDRESSED TO THE PARLIAMENT. THE PREPARATIONS FOR
SUCH A PROGRAM HAVE ALREADY BEEN MADE, AND THE DGB
MANPOWER PROGRAM IS EVIDENCE OF SUCH EFFORTS.

26. ALSO IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD, MUTUAL PLANNING
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AND JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIONS IS NECESSARY. THE
EUROPEAN DAY OF ACTION FOR THE RESTORATION OF FULL
EMPLOYMENT ON APRIL 5 AND THE WORLD-WIDE EMPLOYMENT
CAMPAIGN SPONSORED BY THE INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION
OF FREE TRADE UNIONS (ICFTU) HAVE SHOWN THAT THE
WORKERS IN ALL COUNTRIES HAVE REALIZED THEIR MUTUAL
INTERESTS GO BEYOND NATIONAL BOUNDARIES AND HAVE
UNDERSTOOD THE NEED FOR WAGING A JOINT CAMPAIGN.

27. THE UNIONS HAVE TO OPPOSE CURRENT EFFORTS AIMED

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AT SPLITTING UP THE UNIFIED TRADE UNION MOVEMENT,
ENCOURAGING COMPETITION BETWEEN RIVAL UNIONS AND
CREATING "YELLOW UNIONS". THEY ALSO HAVE TO DEFEND
THEMSELVES AGAINST EFFORTS TO DRIVE A WEDGE BETWEEN
UNIONS AND WORKS COUNCILS OR EVEN BETWEEN WORKERS
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AND WORKS COUNCILS. IT IS NECESSARY TO DISCOURAGE
SYNDICALIST AND SELFISH TENDENCIES WITHIN OUR OWN RANKS.
WORKS COUNCILS SHOULD NOT ALLOW THEMSELVES TO BE
ABUSED FOR MANAGEMENT INTERESTS. ALL TRADE UNIONISTS
SHOULD BECOME AWARE OF THE FACT THAT IT IS NECESSARY
TO ACHIEVE A BALANCE BETWEEN THE JOB AND EMPLOYMENT
INTERESTS IN THEIR OWN PARTICULAR SPHERE AND LABOR'S
OVERALL INTERESTS.

28. THIS QUESTION IS POLITICALLY EXPLOSIVE PARTICULARLY
IN THE ARMAMENT INDUSTRY. IN SPITE OF MAJOR CONCERNS
OF WORKER REPRESENTATIVES IN THE ARMAMENT ENTER-
PRISES, THE UNIONS MUST DEFINITELY REFRAIN FROM
STRENGTHENING THE ARMAMENT RACE, THUS CONTRIBUTING IN-
DIRECTLY TO A SETTLEMENT OF CONFLICTS BY MILITARY
ACTION. IT THEREFORE REMAINS A MATTER OF FACT THAT
THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS EMPLOYED IN THE ARMAMENT
SECTOR CAN, IN THE LONG RUN, BE PROTECTED ONLY BY A
CHANGE OF ARMAMENT PRODUCTION INTO PRODUCTION OF
CIVILIAN GOODS REQUIRING AN EQUAL LEVEL OF WORKER
QUALIFICATION.

29. THE TRADE UNIONS HAVE THE TASK TO MOBILIZE ALL
POLITICAL PARTIES FOR THEIR BASIC POLICY GOALS. THERE
ARE ENCOURAGING SIGNS WHICH INDICATE A COOPERATION
BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS AND POLITICIANS WITH TRADE
UNION ORIENTATION IN ALL POLITICAL PARTIES. THE CLEAR
POSITIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN TAKEN PARTICULARLY BY SPD
POLITICIANS, BUT ALSO BY FRIENDS IN THE CDU LABOR WING
ON THE ISSUE OF LOCKOUTS CREATE HOPES THAT THE COOPERA-
TION BETWEEN THE TRADE UNIONS AND THE POLITICAL PARTIES
CAN BE INTENSIFIED.

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30. THE GERMAN TRADE UNIONS ENDORSE EUROPEAN COOPERATION. THE DGB AND THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC) HAVE ALWAYS DECLARED:

- WE WANT A EUROPE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE;
- WE WANT A EUROPE IN WHICH DIFFERENT STRUCTURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS ARE EQUALIZED;
- WE DO NOT WANT A EUROPE WHICH IS ONLY BASED ON PHILOSOPHY AND PHRASEOLOGY -- WE WANT TO REALIZE A EUROPE OF THE WORKERS.

EUROPE MUST NOT BECOME A CLUB OF PRIVILEGED NATIONS DUE TO NARROW-MINDED NATIONAL AND ECONOMIC INTERESTS, BUT AN OPEN DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY WHERE THE INTERESTS OF THE MAJORITY, THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKERS, ARE THE DETERMINING FACTOR. THIS IMPLIES THE ADMISSION OF GREECE, SPAIN AND PORTUGAL TO THE EEC.

31. EUROPE IS NOT THE WORLD, AND WESTERN EUROPE EVEN LESS THAN THAT. THE TRADE UNIONS ARE, THEREFORE, ALSO INTERESTED IN HAVING GOOD AND RATIONAL RELATIONS WITH THE EASTERN NEIGHBORS, WITHOUT FEAR OF WAR AND IN A RELAXED ATMOSPHERE PROVIDING A FAVORABLE GROUND FOR ECONOMIC COOPERATION AND PROSPECTS FOR HUMAN RELATIONS

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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BETWEEN THE INDIVIDUALS AND BETWEEN THE GROUPS. AS A
RESULT OF THE HELSINKI CSCE AND THE BELGRADE FOLLOW-UP
CONFERENCE, THE DGB EXPECTS THAT TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS
WILL BE REMOVED, FREE COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE IMPROVED,
AND ALSO THAT HUMAN RIGHTS EVERYWHERE WILL BE REALIZED
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AS DETERMINING DAY-TO-DAY LIFE FOR EVERYONE.

32. THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE BIG POWERS ON ARMA-
MENT REDUCTIONS ARE NOT ENCOURAGING IF WE LOOK AT THE
VOLUME OF THE ARMAMENT BUDGETS, EVEN IN THE COUNTRIES
OF THE THIRD WORLD. SUCH FUNDS COULD BE USED BETTER
FOR DEVELOPING ECONOMIC STRUCTURE, CREATING REASONABLE
JOBS AND FINANCING SOCIAL
REFORMS. SOCIAL ARMAMENT WOULD BE THE BEST KIND OF
ARMAMENT IN EAST AND WEST, NORTH AND SOUTH. IT IS
SELF-EVIDENT THAT THE GERMAN UNIONS WILL CONTINUE
SUPPORTING THE POLICY OF DETENTE IN THE FUTURE.

33. A REVIEW OF THE HISTORY OF THE GERMAN LABOR MOVE-
MENT SHOWS THAT, AFTER THE PERIOD OF SUPPRESSION 100
YEARS AGO IT ENJOYED A MAJOR BOOM ... AND TODAY, ITS
STRENGTH IS MUCH GREATER. UNION SOLIDARITY WILL CAUSE
ALL EFFORTS TO CONTROL OR EVEN TO THROTTLE LABOR
TO FAIL JUST AS IT HAPPENED IN THE PAST.
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